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carboxylic ester thereof, and is not (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-17-(acetyloxy)-7-propylestr-4-en-3-one (7 $\alpha$ -propyl-19-nortestosterone acetate).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, ~~propyl~~, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

4. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is oxo, R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, and the dotted lines indicate a  $\Delta^4$  double bond.

5. (Previously Amended). The compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is ethyl or ethenyl.

6. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7,13 -Diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one and (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-Ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

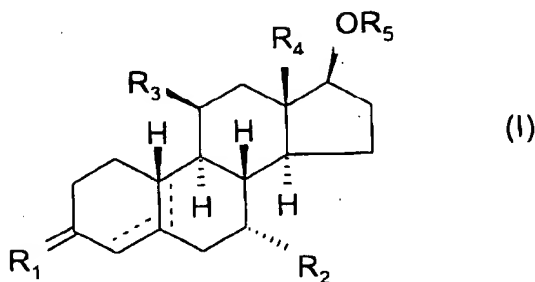
7. (Canceled)

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8. (Previously Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and

a steroid compound, as a medicinally active agent, satisfying formula I



wherein

$R_1$  is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)acyl;

$R_2$  is ~~(C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkyl~~ (C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl, isopropyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or  $R_2$  is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl or halogen;

$R_3$  is hydrogen, (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl, or ethenyl;

$R_4$  is (C<sub>1-2</sub>) alkyl;

$R_5$  is hydrogen, or (C<sub>1-15</sub>)acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

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9. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8, wherein  $R^2$  is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, ~~propyl~~, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

10. (Previously Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the group consisting of  $(7\alpha, 17\beta)$ -7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one,  $(7\alpha, 17\beta)$ -7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one, and  $(7\alpha, 17\beta)$ -7-ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

11. (Previously Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 suitable for oral administration.

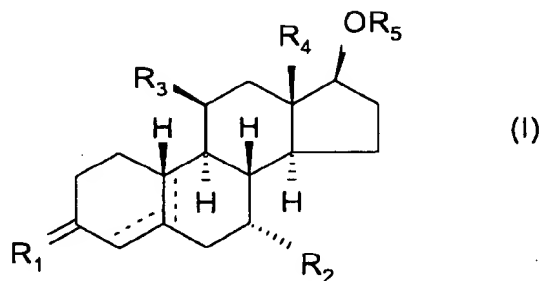
12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A kit for male contraception comprising a progestagen and an androgen, wherein the androgen is a compound according to claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of androgen insufficiency, comprising:

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administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of an androgen, wherein the androgen is a steroid compound satisfying formula I



wherein

$R_1$  is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)acyl;

$R_2$  is ~~(C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkyl~~ (C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl, isopropyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or  $R_2$  is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl or halogen;

$R_3$  is hydrogen, (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl, or ethenyl;

$R_4$  is (C<sub>1-2</sub>) alkyl;

$R_5$  is hydrogen, or (C<sub>1-15</sub>)acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to claim 14, wherein  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, ~~propyl~~, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

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16. (Previously Amended) The method of treatment according to claim 15, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the group consisting of (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one, (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one, and (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.